DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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Authority: EO 13526
DIA FOIA & Declassification Services Offices
Date: *Oct 17, 2018*

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ACTION
DIA:
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CJCS DJS J3(14) J5(02) NMCC SECDEF(07) NMIC SECDEF:
ASD:ISA(10) :DIA(15)
- SECSTATE WASH DC
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TRANSIT/261500Z/261714Z/002:14TOR2081713
DE RUESBAA #0552 2081520
ZNY ~~CCCCC~~
P 261500Z JUL 76
FM (b)(3):10 USC 424
TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASH DC
INFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ
BT
~~C O N F I D E N T I A L/WNINTEL/NOFORN~~ 0552 JUL 76
THIS IS (b)(3):10 USC 424
1. AR
2. ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES INTELLIGENCE - COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATIONS (U)
3. N/A
4. 1976, JUL 22
5. 1976, JUL 22, BSAS, ARG
6. (b)(3):10 USC 424
7.
8.
9. 1976, JUL 23
10. N/A
(b)(3):10 USC 424

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15. 1. ~~(C/WNINTEL/NOFORN)~~

Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

ON 10 JULY SECURITY FORCES (APPARENTLY ACTING ON A TIP FROM A LOCAL NEIGHBOR) WERE SENT TO SAN ANDRES (A BUENOS AIRES SUBURB) TO CHECK ON A SUSPICIOUS HOUSE. SIX MILITARY PERSONNEL CONSISTING OF OFFICERS AND NCO'S ARRIVED ON THE SCENE AND FOUND THE HOUSE WITH WHAT APPEARED TO BE A GUARD TOWER. ONE MAN WAS OBSERVING THEIR MOVEMENTS FROM HIS POST WHILE OTHER OCCUPANTS WERE SCRUTINIZING THEM FROM WINDOWS. THE OFFICER IN CHARGE CAUTIOUSLY RETURNED TO HIS VEHCCLE AND CALLED THE POLICE SUPPORT VIA CAR RADIO. THE OCCUPANTS OF THE HOUSE, HOWEVER, WERE MONITORING THE POLICE RADIO NETS AND STARTED TO EXIT THE AREA. UPON DISCOVERY OF THIS ACTIVITY THE SIX MILITARY MEN TOOK UP POSITIONS AND ATTACKED THE HOUSE.THEY ENTERED IT FOLLOWING A GUN BATTLE AND FOUND THREE SURVIVORS, TWO YOUNG MEN AND AN OLDER ONE. DURING INITIAL INTERROGATION OF THESE TERRORISTS, THE MILITARY LEARNED THE EXISTENCE OF THE CORDOBA PRINTING PLANT (SEE IR (b)(3):10 USC 424 THILE QUESTIONING THE PRISONERS, A SHOT WAS HEARD UNDERGROUND FOLLOWED SHORTLY THEREAFTER BY THE APPEARANCE OF A YOUTH APPROXIMATELY NINETEEN YEARS OLD CARRYING A PISTOL. THE YOUNG MAN WAS SUBDUED AND SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATION REVEALED THE REMAINS OF ARGENTINE AF LTC ETCHEGOYEN, AND THE EXISTENCE OF A LARGE PRINTING FACILITY. THE OLD MAN ALSO PROVIDED INFORMATION TO HIS CAPTORS ON THE LOCATION OF AN IMPORTANT ERP LEADER. A SUBSEQUENT OPERATION WAS MOUNTED TO APPREHEND A TERRORIST LEADER WHO TURNED OUT TO BE DOMINGO MENA.

2. ~~(C/WNINTEL/NOFORN)~~ MEANWHILE IN CORDOBA AN OPERATION WAS MOUNTED BASED ON INTELLIGENCE COLLECTED IN THE SAN ANDRES RAID. DOCUMENTS WERE OBTAINED FROM THIS ACTION WHICH UNCOVERED AN ERP LIBRARY IN BUENOS AIRES. A THIRD MILITARY ACTION WAS LAUNCHED AT THE LIBRARY WHICH PRODUCED A LARGE QUANTITY OF INTELLIGENCE TO INCLUDE THE NAMES AND POSSIBLY THE ADDRESSES OF ALL ERP COLLABORATORS WHO HAD EITHER GIVEN MONEY TO THE TERRORISTS OR WHO HAD SUPPORTED THEIR INFRA-STRUCTURE. SECURITY FORCE

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OPERATIONS ARE CURRENTLY UNDERWAY TO LOCATE AND APPREHEND THESE INDIVIDUALS. ON MORNING OF 23 JULY, POLICE UNITS WERE OBSERVED AT MANY KEY POINTS THROUGHOUT PARTS OF BUENOS AIRES.

3. ~~(C/WNINTEL/NOFORN)~~ INTERROGATION OF MENA PRODUCED THE ADDRESS OF AN APARTMENT THAT WAS USED BY HIGH RANKING ERP MEMBERS. A DETACHMENT WAS SENT TO THE APARTMENT LED BY CAPTAIN JUAN CARLOS LEONETTI TO INVESTIGATE. THE ENSUING GUN BATTLE LED TO THE DEATH OF THE OCCUPANTS AS WELL AS THE CAPTAIN. AT THE TIME, THE ARMY REPORTEDLY HAD NO IDEA THAT ONE OF THE GUERRILLA VICTIMS WAS SANTUCHO. HE WAS IDENTIFIED THROUGH A FINGER PRINT CHECK, SINCE HE HAD UNDERGONE EXTENSIVE FACIAL PLASTIC SURGERY. (THIS ACCOUNT OF SANTUCHO'S DISCOVERY AND DEATH VARIES WITH THOSE RECEIVED BY OTHER EMBASSY SOURCES.)

4. ~~(C/WNINTEL/NOFORN)~~ ONE DOCUMENT CAPTURED DURING THE COURSE OF THE WEEK'S ACTIVITY STATED THAT THE MONTONEROS ALONG WITH THE ERP WERE PLANNING TO ATTACK AND KILL, AS TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY, MILITARY OFFICERS, NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND THEIR FAMILIES DURING THE PRIOD OF 22 THRU 25 JULY. THIS WOULD BE DONE RANDOMLY, ON THE STREET WHEN THE TERRORISTS ENCOUNTERED THE ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL. THE ARGENTINE ARMY HAS MOUNTED A MAJOR INTELLIGENCE CAMPAIGN TO THWART THIS EFFORT. EVERY INTELLIGENCE AGENT FROM THE 601ST INTELLIGENCE BATTALION AS WELL AS EXPERIENCED INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS ON THE GENERAL STAFF HAVE BEEN PRESSED INTO SERVICE AND ARE ON THE STREETS. MEANWHILE OTHER OFFICERS AND NCO'S HAVE BEEN ADVISED TO STAY OFF THE STREET AND TO USE EXTREME CAUTION DURING THIS PERIOD (LAST YEAR AT THIS TIME THE MONTONEROS CONDUCTED EXTENSIVE OPERATIONS IN THE CITY AND LOCAL SUBURBS). THE ARMY GENERAL STAFF HAS CANCELLED ITS NORMAL FRIDAY SHOWING OF COMMERCIAL MOVIE FILMS FOR ITS PERSONNEL. FURTHER, VILLA MARTELLI (THE RECREATION AREA OF THE GENERAL STAFF IN THE GENERAL NEIGHBORHOOD WHERE SANTUCHO WAS KILLED) WILL NOT OPEN DURING THE WEEKEND OF 24 AND 25 JULY.

5. ~~(C/WNINTEL/NOFORN)~~ THE EFFORTS OF THE SECURITY FORCES AND INTELLIGENCE SERVICES HAVE PRODUCED IMPRESSIVE RESULTS IN THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS. TOP LEADERS OF THE ERP HAVE FALLEN AND THE INFRA-STRUCTURE

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AND COMBAT CAPABILITY OF THE ERP HAS BEEN
SERIOUSLY DAMAGED, POSSIBLY BEYOND REPAIR. MILITARY
AUTHORITIES ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE ERP IS NOW
INEFFECTIVE. WHETHER THEY ARE RIGHT OR NOT REMAINS TO BE
SEEN.
THIS MSG COORD W/EMBASSY. ~~XGDS-2~~
BT

Sec. 3.3(b)(1)

ANNOTES
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